

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Classic Designs by Matthew Burak

Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center

Classic Design by Matthew Burak

Client Profile:

Classic Designs by Matthew Burak manufactures specialized turnings and finished woodworking parts for furniture makers. The company employs 40 people at its facility in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont.

Situation:

Classic Designs began as a direct marketer but lacked production facilities. When one of their major suppliers went out of business, the company made the decision to become a manufacturing company. Recognizing an opportunity to improve operations, Classic Designs hired a production manager with a Lean Manufacturing background and contacted the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance with workforce training and Lean implementation.

Solution:

VMEC provided training in the Fundamentals of Lean Manufacturing concepts, Value Stream Mapping, 5S Workplace Organization, and Set Up Reduction training. As a result of VMEC's assistance, set-ups went from 30 per week to 30 per day, and batch sizes were reduced by 90 percent. Employee involvement, smaller batches with reduced set-up times, and good workplace organization have resulted in the company's ability to reduce inventory by 30 percent while meeting on-time delivery.

Results:

- * Realized \$200,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced batch sizes by 90 percent.
- * Reduced inventory by 30 percent.

Testimonial:

"VMEC was able to provide the training and implementation assistance that was exactly right for our situation. Their flexibility and knowledge continue to be a huge help in our Lean journey."

Jim Lovinsky, Operations Manager